

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AECE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCI-06

FEA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 EB-11 AID-20

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O R 270748Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1674

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

:AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NEW YORK

US MISSION IAEA VIENNA

US MISSION GENEVA

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL HONGKONG

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6936

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, IN.

SUBJECT: CONTINUING REACTIONS TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST

REF: 6919 (NOTAL)

1. MRS. GANDHI DEFENDED INDIA'S ACTION IN CONDUCTING A PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT BEFORE AN AFRICA DAY MEETING MAY 25. SHE COMPLAINED ABOUT CRITICISM BY RICH COUNTRIES, WHICH USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR DESTRUCTIVE PURPOSES, AND ASKED WHY A POOR COUNTRY COULD NOT USE IT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE PURPOSES. SHE SAID INDIA WAS PREPARED TO SHARE ALL INDUSTRIAL KNOW-HOW, INCLUDING THAT PERTAINING TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, WITH ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. DEPARTING SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR, ON MAY 26, PRAISED INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENT, NOTING IT'S PLANS FOR PEACEFUL USES FOR INDIA AND HUMANITY.

2. THE PRESS PICKED UP ALL PRO-INDIA REACTIONS, INCLUDING DEFENSES BY SENATORS KENNEDY AND HUMPHREY WHICH SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. OUGHT TO EXAMINE IT'S OWN NUCLEAR POLICIES BEFORE CRITICIZING INDIA FOR IT'S MODEST PROGRAM. RESTRAINED U.S. AND U.K. OFFICIAL REACTIONS WERE STRESSED IN VARIOUS COMMENTARIES. SOME OBSERVERS, INCLUDING EDITOR OF INDIA'S EXPRESS (S. MULGAONKOR), FOCUSSED ON THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY NOW PLACED ON INDIA TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN PEACEFUL USES AND SUGGESTED INDIA OPEN ALL IT'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION.

3. AS IF TO EMPHASIZE INDIA'S PLANS FOR PEACEFUL USES, NEWSPAPERS MAY 26 CARRIED A STORY DATED BUENOS AIRES THAT VISITING INDIAN MINISTER OF STATE SURENDRA PAL SINGH WOULD SOON SIGN AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR COOPERATION WITH ARGENTINA IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, POSSIBLY LEADING TO CONSTRUCTION OF ARGENTINA'S THIRD NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.

4. JOINT SECRETARY FOR PAKISTAN AFFAIRS CHIB TOLD THE POLCOUNS HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE IN ADVANCE OF THE NUCLEAR TEST, ALTHOUGH HE AND OTHER OFFICIALS KNEW IT COULD HAVE COME AT MOST ANY TIME. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, THE TEST "COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A WORSE TIME." PRESS STORIES NOTED THAT THERE IS AS YET NO PAKISTANI REACTION TO MRS. GANDHI'S LETTER TO
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Message Attributes

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